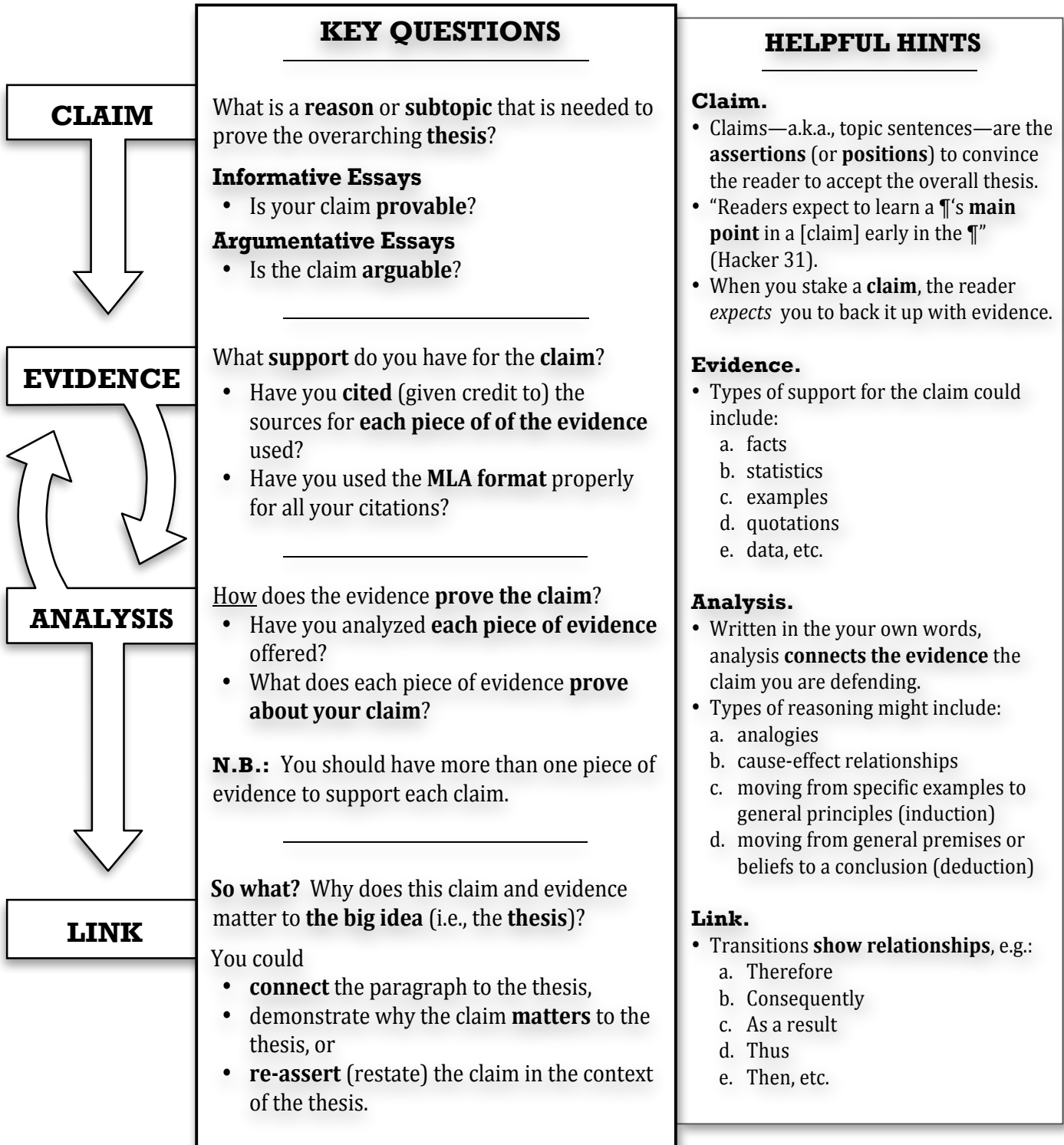


CEAL

A GUIDE FOR BODY PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

"Statements that do not support the [claim] destroy the unity of a paragraph" (Hacker 24).



KEY QUESTIONS

What is a **reason** or **subtopic** that is needed to prove the overarching **thesis**?

Informative Essays

- Is your claim **provable**?

Argumentative Essays

- Is the claim **arguable**?

What **support** do you have for the **claim**?

- Have you **cited** (given credit to) the sources for **each piece of of the evidence** used?
- Have you used the **MLA format** properly for all your citations?

How does the evidence **prove the claim**?

- Have you analyzed **each piece of evidence** offered?
- What does each piece of evidence **prove about your claim**?

N.B.: You should have more than one piece of evidence to support each claim.

So what? Why does this claim and evidence matter to **the big idea** (i.e., the **thesis**)?

You could

- **connect** the paragraph to the thesis,
- demonstrate why the claim **matters** to the thesis, or
- **re-assert** (restate) the claim in the context of the thesis.

HELPFUL HINTS

Claim.

- Claims—a.k.a., topic sentences—are the **assertions** (or **positions**) to convince the reader to accept the overall thesis.
- “Readers expect to learn a ¶’s **main point** in a [claim] early in the ¶” (Hacker 31).
- When you stake a **claim**, the reader *expects* you to back it up with evidence.

Evidence.

- Types of support for the claim could include:
 - a. facts
 - b. statistics
 - c. examples
 - d. quotations
 - e. data, etc.

Analysis.

- Written in the your own words, analysis **connects the evidence** the claim you are defending.
- Types of reasoning might include:
 - a. analogies
 - b. cause-effect relationships
 - c. moving from specific examples to general principles (induction)
 - d. moving from general premises or beliefs to a conclusion (deduction)

Link.

- Transitions **show relationships**, e.g.:
 - a. Therefore
 - b. Consequently
 - c. As a result
 - d. Thus
 - e. Then, etc.

CEAL Variations (just a few).

☞ CEAEAL
(lots of uses)

☞ CEEAAL
(comparing two things)

☞ CEAAEAAL
(developing arguments)

☞ CEEEEEAL
(research-based writing)

☞ CEAAAEEAL
(critiquing other views)